CITY OF MILWAUKEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Clinical Laboratory Update

December 2019
www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab
Phone: (414) 286-3526
Fax: (414) 286-5098

Sexually Transmitted Infections

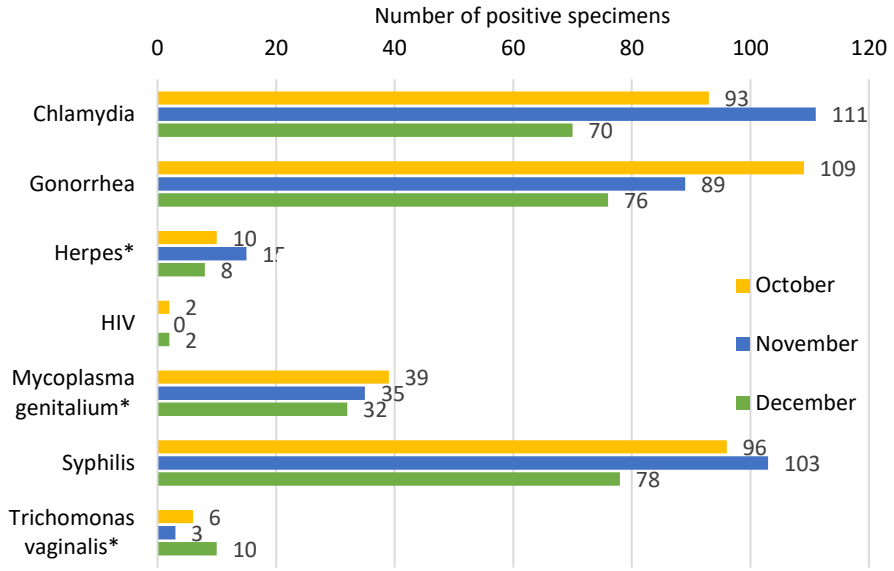

Figure 1: Positive specimens identified using molecular or serological assays for the given organism.

*Not reportable as per WI DHS 145.04 (3) (a)

Respiratory Infections

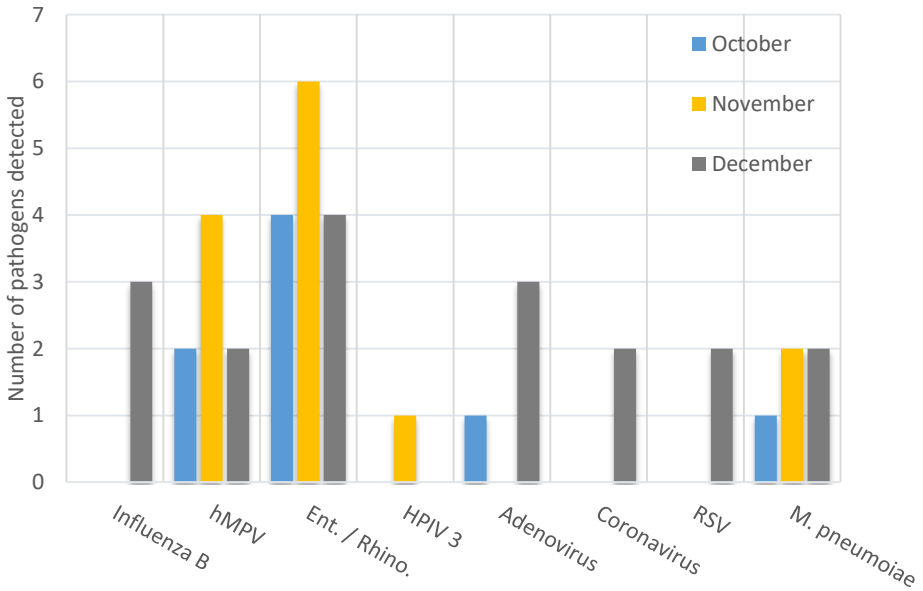

Figure 2: Pathogens detected using the Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and/or RT-PCR Influenza assay.

Connect with your health department:

From the desk of the Public Health Laboratory Director

Happy New Year!

According to the recent HAN report (Jan 10, 2020), influenza activity remains high in the United States. Influenza B/Victoria and A (H1N1) are the predominant circulating strains. These viruses can also cause severe illness, particularly in adults not originally exposed to currently circulating A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses. MHDL and WSLH public health laboratories test a subset of specimens from the clinical laboratories and the data are compiled into weekly reports to the CDC for total number of specimens tested, the number of flu positives, influenza A & B virus types and subtypes.

MHD Lab adds "green" initiatives

Looking for a New Year's resolution? Join MHDL in committing to better sustainability practices. Clinical labs often utilize one-time use products, resulting in increased plastic consumption. MHDL continues to explore practices to expand our efforts to "go green" – including the recent adoption of vendor recycling programs for nitrile gloves and plastic packaging and pipette boxes.

Upcoming MHDL Holiday closure

Please be aware that all MHD facilities will be CLOSED on **Monday, January 20** for the Martin Luther King holiday**.** We will return to normal business hours on Tuesday, January 21.

Key highlights:

- Effective January 1, MHDL will discontinue performing several tests. Complete details can be found in our October 2019 report.
- Influenza activity remains high due to influenza B/Victoria and A (H1N1) in the United States (CDC HAN00425).

Links to related reports:

MHD SurvNet
WI Epi Express

New HIV Infections

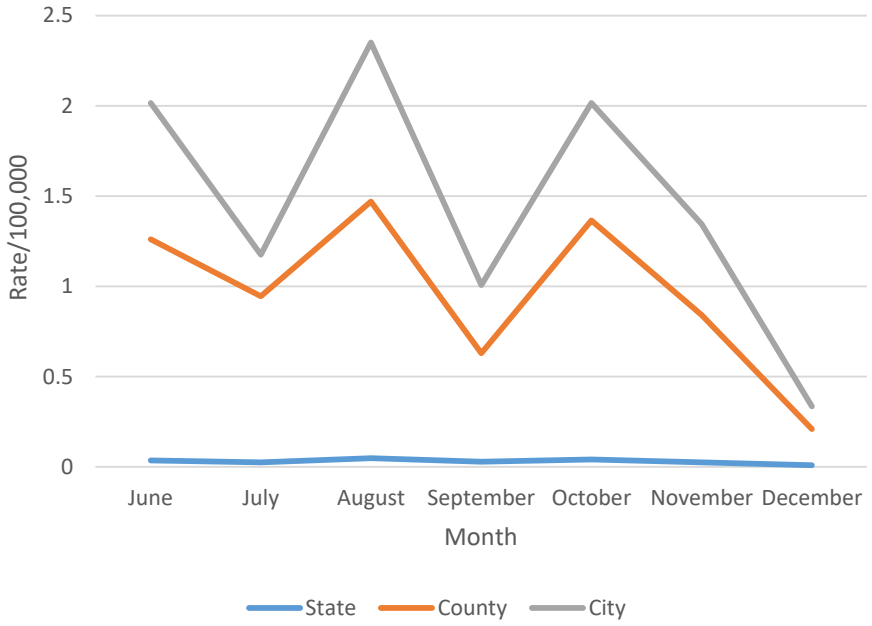

Figure 3: Monthly comparison of rate of new HIV infections in the state of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, and City of Milwaukee, using state- and county-level data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

For more statewide HIV data, visit: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/data.htm.

Syphilis Surveillance

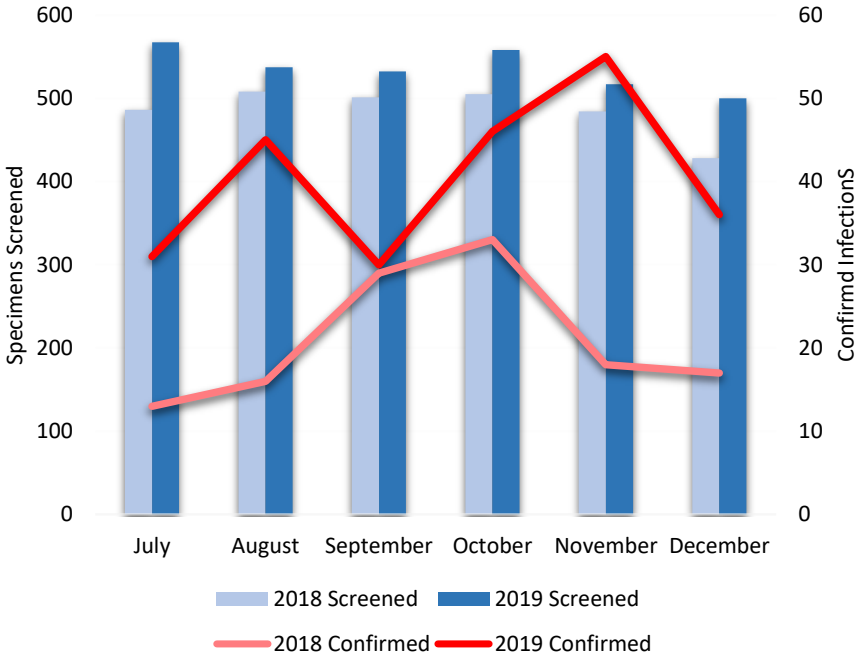

Figure 4: Monthly comparison of syphilis data with year over year comparisons.

Bars: number of specimens screened at MHDL, left axis.

Lines: number of confirmed infections, right axis.

Gonorrhea Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

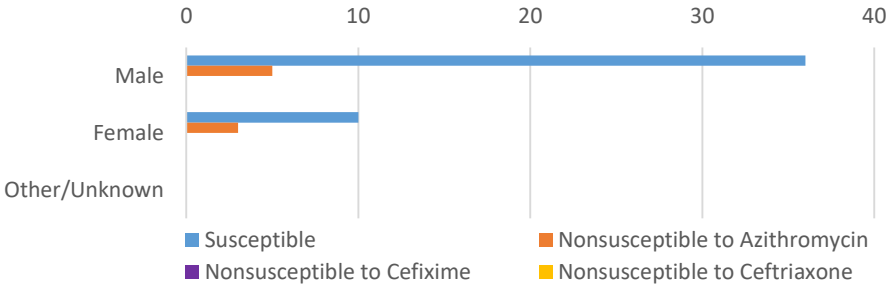

Figure 5: Antibiotic susceptibility profile of Gonorrhea isolates identified in males and females. In December 2019, 8 of 54 cultures tested were found to be nonsusceptible to Azithromycin according to CLSI guidelines. MHDL tests for antibiotic resistance to Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime and Gentamicin.

Sexually Transmitted Infections by Source

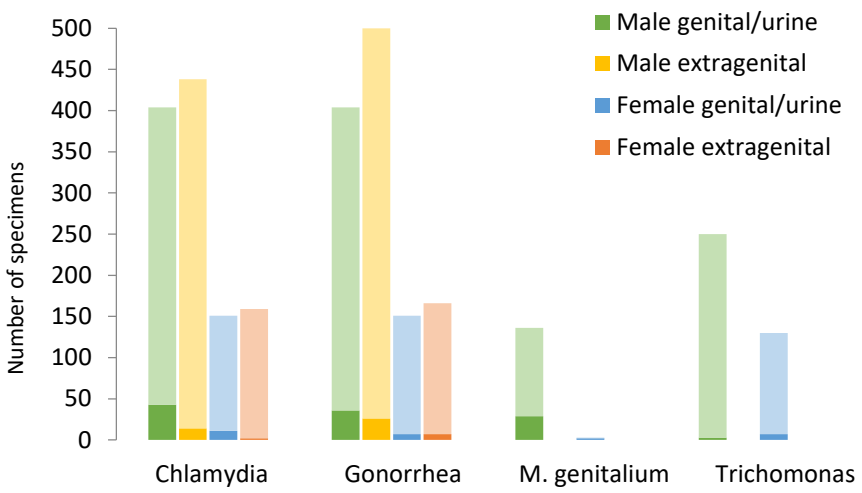

Figure 6: Distribution of STIs detected using NAAT. In December 2019, 6.8% of male and 4.2% of female specimens screened were positive for Chlamydia. 6.9% of male and 4.4% of female specimens were positive for Gonorrhea. 21.3% of male and 2 of the 3 female specimens were positive for *M. genitalium*. 1.2% of male specimens and 5.4% of female specimens were positive for ***Trichomonas***.

Note: Darker bars indicate positive specimens.

Viral Surveillance

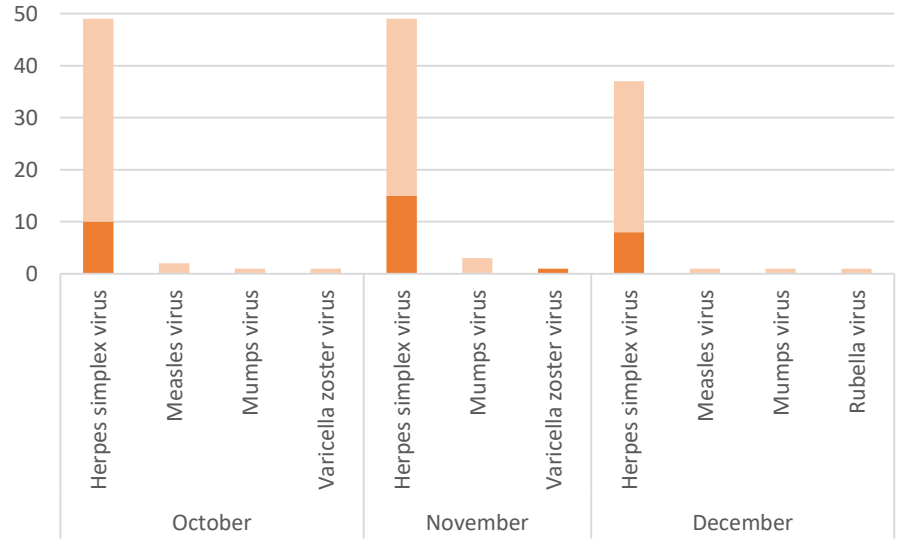

Figure 7: Specimens tested using molecular methods.

Note: Height of bar indicates number of specimens tested.

Darker bars indicate DNA/RNA detected by virus culture, real-time PCR and/or nucleotide sequencing analysis.

Legionella Testing

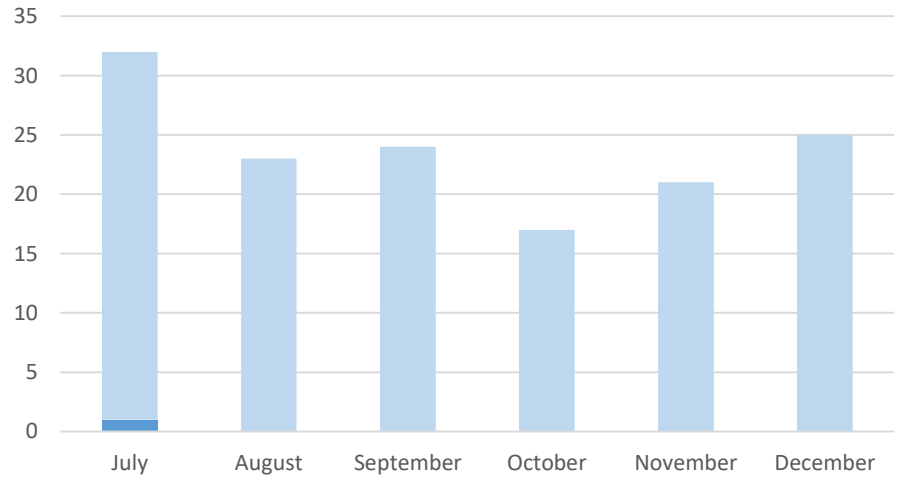

Figure 8: Specimens tested using culture and molecular methods.

*MHDL is one of the **CDC ELITE** certified sites for environmental *Legionella* testing. See the Winter 2019 issue of the APHL Bridges newsletter for more information.

Note: Darker bars indicate confirmed Legionella pneumophila by culture and/or real-time PCR.